

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The examiner objected to the drawings for lacking descriptive text labels on Figures 1, 3-5A, 8 and 9.

Figures 1, 3-5A, 8 and 9 are amended to add appropriate textural references. The amended Figures include Figures 1, 3, 4, 5, 5a, 8 and 9. Marked up sheets of amended Figures are attached at Appendix A of this Reply. Four sheets of Replacement Figures are attached at Appendix B of this Reply.

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-11, 15-18 and 23-27 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is cancelled from the application above and replaced with new claim 26. Moreover, many of the pending application claims are amended to more clearly set forth what the applicants regard as their invention. Claims 3, 12-14 and 19-22 are cancelled from the application and new claim 27 has also been added to the application. No new matter was added to the application by way of these amendments.

The examiner's specification and claim objections are rejections are overcome or they are traversed as set forth below.

I. THE ALLOWABLE CLAIMS AND CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The examiner allowed claims 1-18 and 23 in the First Official Action. Nonetheless, the applicants have chose to amend many of the allowed application claims to better define what it is that the applicants regard as their invention. The amended claims are believed to be patentable over the prior art of record. The claim amendments recited above are made in order to clarify what it is that the applicants regard as the invention. The presently pending claims do not differ significantly from the original claims allowed by the examiner and, are therefore believed to be allowable.

II. THE DRAWING OBJECTION

The examiner objected to the drawings for lacking descriptive text labels.

Amended and Replacement Figures 1, 3, 5, 5a, 8 and 9, including appropriate textual references, are included at Appendix A and Appendix B respectfully of this Reply. The proposed drawing amendments are believed to overcome the examiner's drawing objections.

III. THE SPECIFICATION

The examiner objected to the specification for lacking section headings. This objection is overcome by amending the specification above to add appropriate headings.

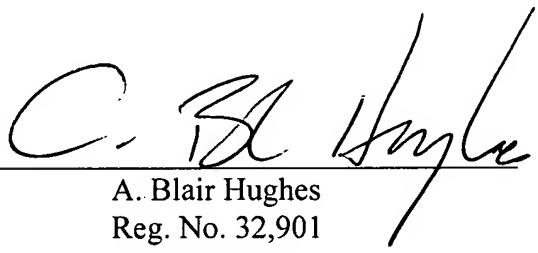
IV. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The examiner rejected claims 19-22 for obviousness. The examiner's rejections are moot in view of the applicant's cancellation of claims 19-22 from the application.

CONCLUSION

Claims 2, 4-11, 15-18 and 23-27 are believed to be allowable based upon the amendments and patentability positions presented above. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of all pending application claims as well entry of the amended application Figures is respectfully submitted.

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By: 
A. Blair Hughes
Reg. No. 32,901
312-913-2123



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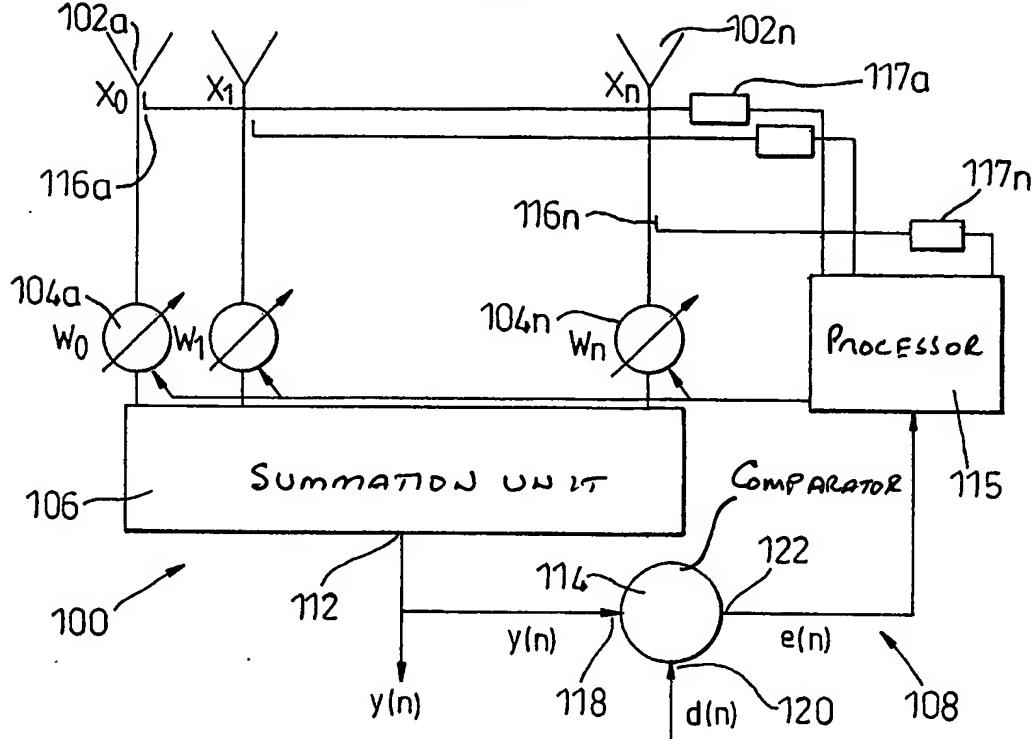


Fig. 1
(PRIOR ART)

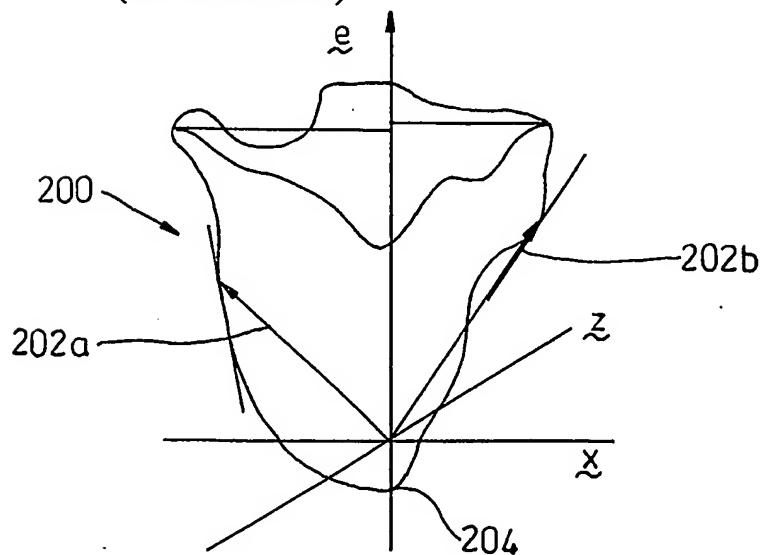


Fig. 2
(PRIOR ART)

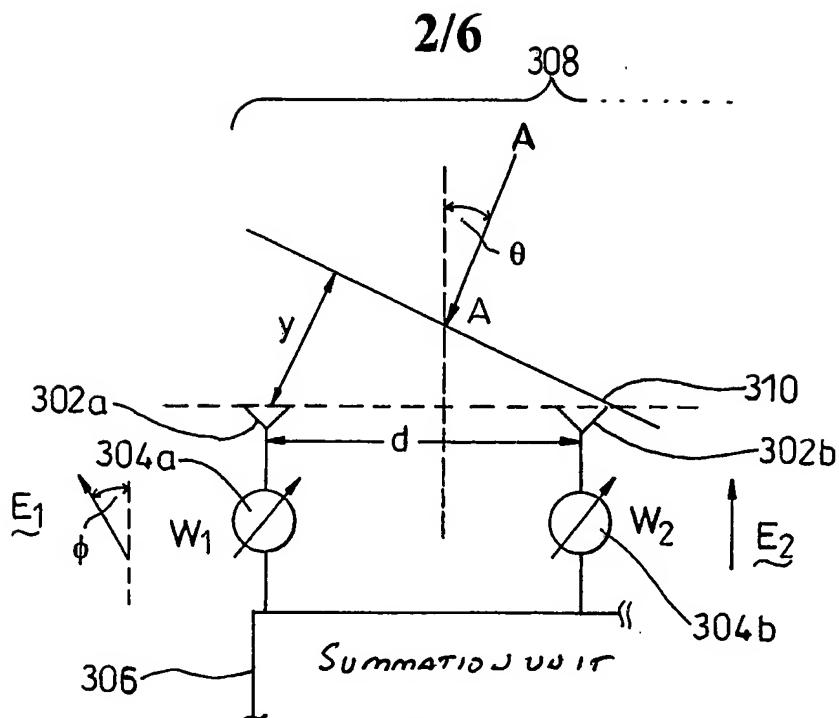


Fig. 3
(PRIOR ART)

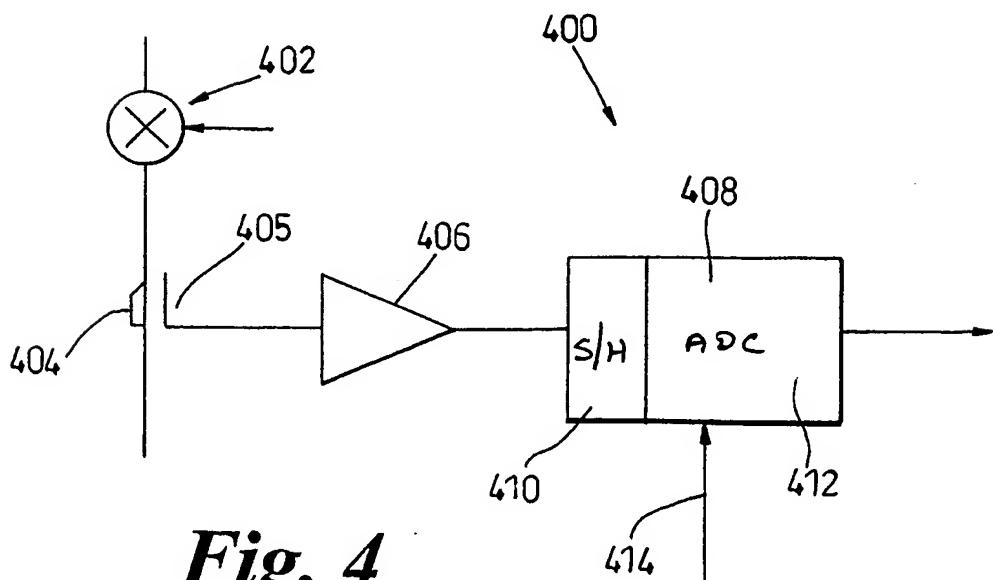


Fig. 4
(PRIOR ART)

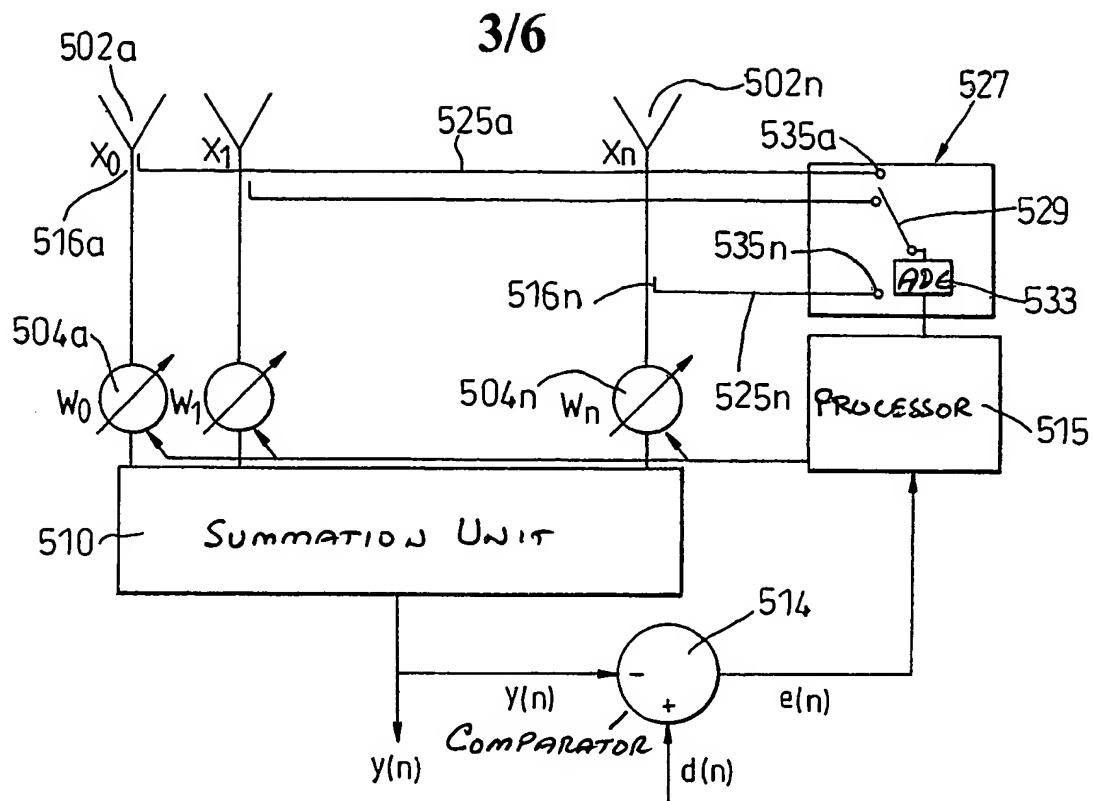


Fig. 5

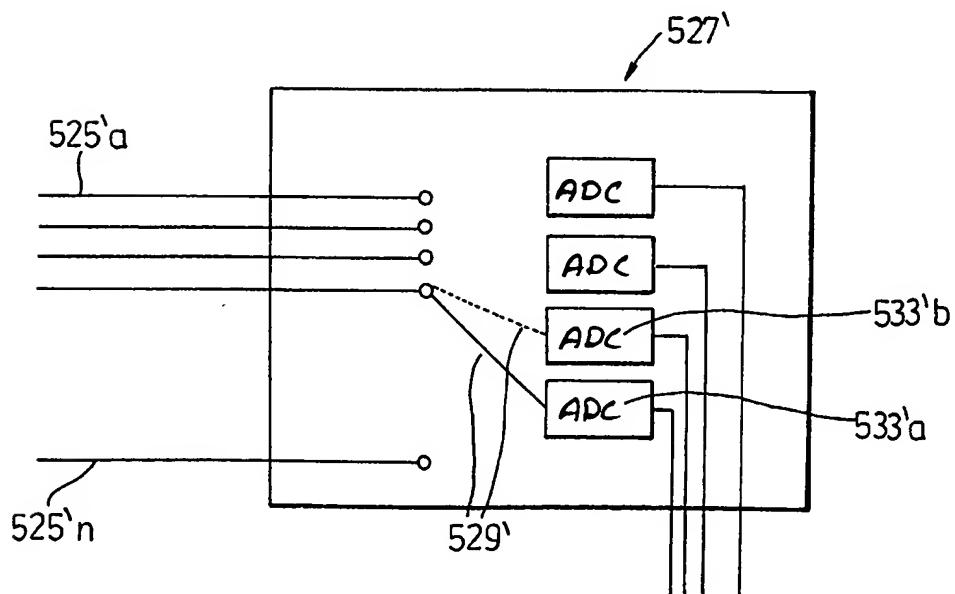


Fig. 5a

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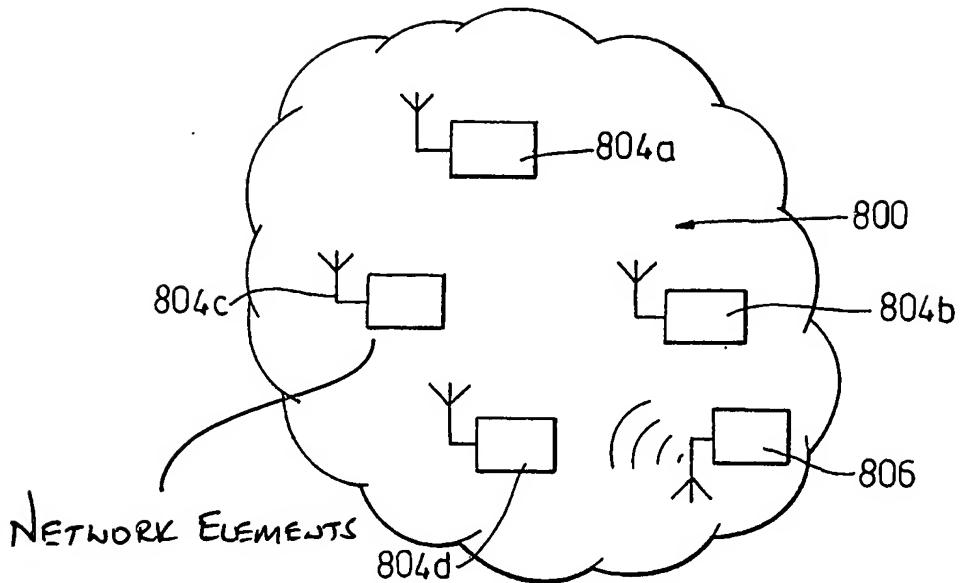


Fig. 8
NETWORK ELEMENTS

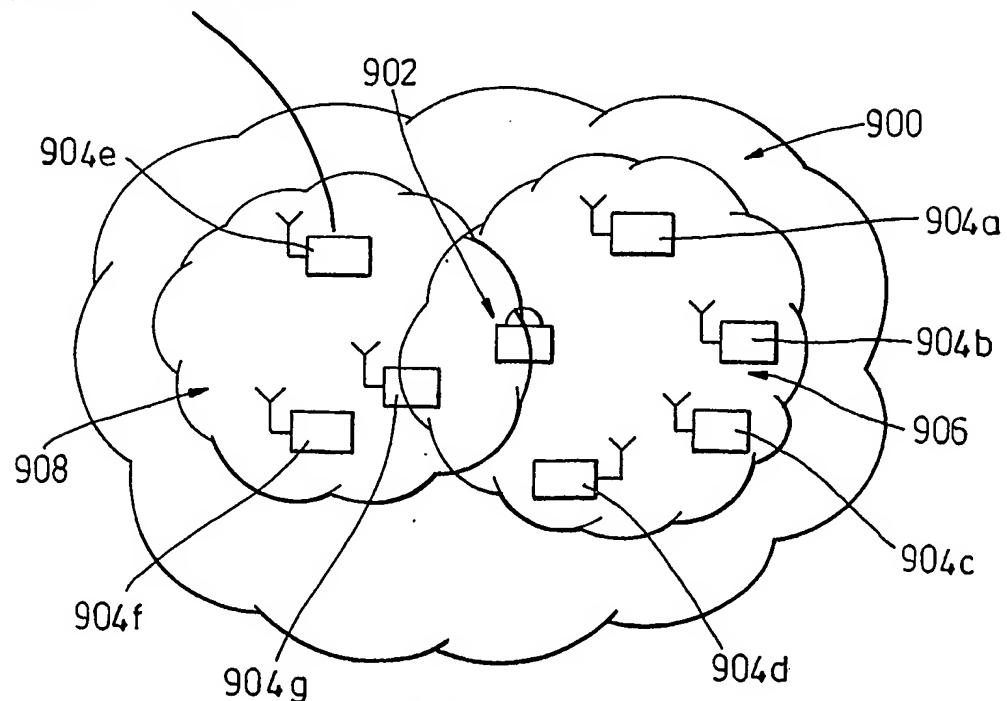


Fig. 9